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West Virginia Adjutant General's reports

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Annual report of the Adjutant General and ex-officio Quarter-master General of the State of West Virginia <1868, 1871>

Annual report of the Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia <Year 1871>

Biennial report of the Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia <Fiscal years 1877 and 1878, Fiscal years 1879-80, Years 1881-82, Years 1885 and 1886>

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL,

AND EX-OFFICIO

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

OF THE

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

WHEELING:
JOHN FREW, PUBLIC PRINTER.

1871.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

CHARLESTON, December 31st, 1870.

His Excellency, WM. E. STEVENSON,

Governor of West Virginia:

DEAR SIR: I have the honor herewith to submit my Annual Report as Adjutant General, and *ex-officio* Quartermaster General, of the State. The financial portion of the report closes with the fiscal year, except so far as relates to the expenses of the office; but inasmuch as my connection with the office is about to cease, I have thought proper in other matters pertaining to the labors of the office, to bring it down to date.

I have the honor to be,

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. M. HARRIS,

Adjutant Gen'l and ex-officio Quartermaster Gen'l.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

THE business of this office during the past year has been of the usual character.

The correspondence of the office, though much less than in former years, is still considerable; consisting in letters of inquiry from different departments of the General Government, in relation to matters involving the interests of the government, and of citizens of our State, or of soldiers connected with our service in the war for the suppression of the late rebellion, from claim agents, and citizens and soldiers who are prosecuting claims against the government, or applying for pensions; from soldiers, and the friends of deceased soldiers, asking for medals; and from persons who are prosecuting claims before the Board of Military Claims.

SOLDIERS' MEDALS.

This office is still encumbered with a large number of medals, prepared at the expense of the State, for the honorably discharged soldiers of the West Virginia service; and cannot be got rid of for the want of a knowledge of the post office address of their proper claimants. Early in the present year I prepared circulars, and distributed as widely as possible in every county in the State, asking for the names and address of all soldiers entitled to medals who had not received them; but have not, in response, received the names of over two hundred. I conclude that a large portion of our honorably discharged soldiers are quite indifferent as to their possession; and that thousands of these medals must remain in the office, to testify to an ill-advised effort on the part of our law makers in the past, to give expression to their patriotic and grateful feelings toward a class of men who are worthy of all gratitude and praise—our citizen soldiers.

THE MILITIA.

As the law made it my duty, I had blank rolls prepared for the use of the assessors, in enrolling the militia of the State, under the provisions of chapter 19 of the Code.

These rolls have been returned properly filled up by most of the assessors of the State. No returns have as yet been received from nine counties; and but partial returns from nine other counties. The counties, and parts of counties from which rolls have been received, show an aggregate of four hundred and seventy-two "not citizens;" two thousand

one hundred and thirty-eight "citizens who claim to be exempt from all military duty;" twelve hundred and seventy-two "citizens who claim to be exempt from all ordinary military duty," and forty-three thousand two hundred and forty-nine "who are liable to military duty, having reference to the first of April," making a grand total of forty-seven thousand one hundred and thirty-one. The counties and parts of counties to be heard from will swell this grand aggregate to at least sixty-five thousand.

The law of the Code prescribes the manner of the organization of the militia of the State; and requires three days duty in each year from all persons liable for duty.

The want of complete returns has rendered the organization of the militia impossible thus far. This is the less to be regretted, inasmuch as the requirement of duty would be of no practical advantage; whilst it would impose a tax annually on the time of those liable for duty, in the aggregate equivalent in money value, to at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

In my last report I urged at some length the importance of such a modification of the militia laws of the State, as to provide merely for the enrollment of the militia annually by the assessors, dispensing with the requisition for service in time of peace; but in lieu thereof, imposing, as the price of exemption, a tax of one dollar annually upon all persons liable to do duty; and also to give such encouragement to the organization of volunteer companies as would secure an adequate force to meet any emergency that might arise requiring the use of the military arm; requiring, at the same time, such an amount of duty from these as would secure a resonable degree of efficiency. The exemption tax would yield a revenue at once of at least fifty thousand dollars, and would annually increase. According to the provisions of the Constitution this would go into the Permanent School Fund and tend to its rapid increase. When it is considered that just in proportion to the enlargement of this fund the necessity for taxation for school purposes will be diminished; and further, that this increase of the Permanent Fund would come principally from that portion of our people who are most interested in the maintenance of our public schools, it would seem that no solid objection could be urged against the plan proposed.

It has, indeed, been urged by some that this tax would be unconstitutional, but I am satisfied, after a careful examination of the subject, that this view cannot be maintained; but that on the contrary our Constitution contemplates this tax, inasmuch as it prescribes that all moneys accruing to the State as the price of exemption from military duty, shall be credited to the Irreducible School Fund.

I am also sustained in this opinion by a number of the oldest and ablest lawyers in the State, who have been kind enough to favor me with their views on this question.

I had, after an examination of the militia laws of several of the leading States of the Union, prepared a bill, designed as a substitute for Chapter 19 of the Code, in which I had incorporated the alterations recommended for the consideration of the last Legislature. This bill passed the Senate with some modifications, but was not reached by the House.

I would earnestly recommend that the Legislature at its next session shall revive this bill and consider it in its unmodified form. It is a compilation from the laws now in force in several of the States, embracing such portions as seemed to me to be applicable and necessary, in connection with the ideas herein embraced, and would furnish all the law really necessary on the subject, in a much smaller compass and concise form than the present militia law of the State.

SOLDIERS' RECORD.

The great work of the office during the present year, has been the completion of the records of our service during the war for the suppression of the late rebellion. This has been a work of great labor, and has required more than three years for its completion. At the date of my last report, this work had progressed nearly as far as we were able to carry it from the rolls on file in this office.

A large number of the muster-in and muster-out rolls were never furnished to the Adjutant General of the State, hence our record was necessarily left very incomplete. In order to its completion, it was necessary to obtain the information contained in the missing rolls, which were only to be found in the War Department at Washington.

After making two trips to Washington, the latter in company with the governor, permission was finally obtained, and the necessary arrangements made for the completion of the work, and in pursuance of these arrangements, I sent my very able and efficient clerk, Mr. Jas. M. Ewing, jr., to Washington about the first of July, where he prosecuted his labors with great assiduity and faithfulness, for nearly six months. He is able now to present the work to me in as nearly a complete state as is possible without incurring a greater expense, than the end would justify. In this record, as it now stands, will be found the complete military history of every soldier who at any time during the war for the suppression of the late rebellion, belonged to any of our organizations, with a very few exceptions.

It is a work of which the State may well be proud, on account of the matter contained in its pages. Any merit that may be found in the execution of the work is due to the clerical ability of Mr. Ewing, who has had charge of it from the beginning. I feel sure, from the knowledge I have on the subject, that no State can present a more perfect record of its service. I hope it may be your pleasure to recommend to the next Legislature its publication.

This work being finished, the only business of this office under the present law will consist in answering letters of inquiry, and superintending the enrollment and organization of the militia. I would, therefore, venture to suggest, that the duties of the Adjutant General, might be assigned to one of the officers of State; either the Secretary or Treasurer. Its duties could thus be discharged at a much smaller cost to the State, and no doubt quite as satisfactorily as if it were kept up as a separate department.

I would respectfully call the attention of your excellency to the fact, that the law imposes the duty on the assessors of enrolling the militia, prescribing the amount of their compensation for the same, to be provided for by legislative appropriation. This appropriation was overlooked by the last legislature; hence I have been unable to pay the assessors for the performance of this duty.

Their accounts will be made up before the next meeting of the legislature, and I hope it will be your pleasure to call attention to the necessity of an early appropriation to meet this obligation of the State.

EXPENSES OF THE OFFICE.

The sum appropriated by the last legislature to defray the contingent expenses of this office proved entirely insufficient, on account of the increase of its contingent expenses, growing out of the enrollment of the militia, and the expense of two trips made by myself to Washington, on business connected with my office, and the necessary traveling expenses of my clerk in going to and coming from Washington, in the discharge of his duties; and also for the expenses of transporting the record books to and from the National Capital, for their compilation. The amount appropriated for clerk hire, both for the last and the present year, was insufficient. Last year for reasons explained in my last report; and this year, from the necessity of employing the office clerk for so long a time in Washington, rendering it necessary to increase his compensation to one hundred and fifty dollars a month, during that time. For these reasons, these two appropriations fell short of meeting the demands of the office by the sum of seven hundred and two dollars and seventy two cents, for which vouchers are on file in this office. By the advice and consent of your excellency, this deficency was met by drawing on a surplus in the appropriations of '67 and '68, for the payment of certain military claims. These appropriations were made from money derived from the general government to reimburse the State for military expenses, and being in excess, seemed to be the proper source from which to suppliment these deficiencies,

MILITARY CLAIMS.

Since my last report the following claims have been paid:

Claims audited and appropriated for in 1867.

1869.			
Oct.	7,	To Levi Barb, on roll of Co. C, 15th regiment.....	$ 5 63
Nov.	1.	To Benj. Smith. " " " "	2 16
"	2.	To A. B. Caufman, on roll of Capt. Wm. Hall's company of militia.....	3 46
"	3.	To Richard Bond, on original roll of Capt. C. N. Nutter's Co. of Home Guards.....	9 66
1870.			
Jan.	28.	To Capt. J. R. Ramsey administrator of I. J. Saunders, deceased, on Capt. Ramsey's roll.....	104 00
Feb.	9.	To Wm. Workman, Attorney for W. Blankenship, on roll of Capt. Wm. Walker's State Troops.....	35 00
Feb.	16.	To Stewart L. Queen, Attorney for Richard Thrash....	12 13
Feb.	14.	To J. L. Hoard, on roll of Capt. Geo. B. Comb's Company 14th Regiment Militia.....	6 93
Feb.	24.	To S. B. Flemming, (See Duvall's list unpaid claims)...	28 00
Feb.	28.	To John Boyles, roll of Company E, 133d Regiment...	13 86
Mar.	2.	To A. Werninger, attorney for N. Pettit, on roll of Capt. Stout's Company.....	6 10
"	3.	To I. Duckworth, (See Duvall's list of unpaid claims)	12 60
"	4.	To Thos. Mitchem, on roll of Capt. Walker's H. G.,...	52 00
May	2.	To Robert P. Nixon, attorney for E. C. Nixon and others, on Capt. Nixon's roll.....	110 89
"	2.	To E. Harper, for transportation.....	29 50
"	2.	To E. B. Woods, for "	11 40
"	2.	To T. M. Harris, attorney for Marshall Dean, on roll of Field and Staff, 170th Regiment.....	38 40
"	10.	To Wm. Workman, attorney for Jno. Lester, on Capt. Walker's roll.....	52 00
"	12.	To J. P. R. B. Smith, attorney for W. Long and others for supplies for State Troops.....	152 81
"	12.	To J. P. R. B. Smith, attorney for J. N. Jones, for use of steamer H. Logan, transporting Troops.....	70 00
"	19.	To G. Slack, for subsistence.....	8 29
"	21.	To Ernest Muntzing, attorney for M. J. Lyons, for subsistence.....	105 70
July	15.	To Mrs. E. Drake, representative of Wm. Drake, on roll of Company D, 11th Regiment.....	5 39
Oct.	4.	To Benjamin F. George, on roll of Capt. I. Rucker's State Troops, applied for prior to Oct. 1st.....	60 66
		Total amount.....	$936 57

As there are claims yet unpaid under this appropriation, I would recommend a further extension of the time of payment to October 1st, 1871.

Claims Audited and Appropriated for in 1868.

1869.			
Nov.	3.	Roll of Captain John Wells' Company of Militia.....$	445 12
"	3.	" Company A, 12th Regiment	118 02
"	3.	" " B, " "	61 40
"	3.	" " E, " "	160 33
"	3.	" Captain John Chorpening's Company 138th Regiment West Virginia Militia.....	240 72
Dec.	8.	To S. P. Hildreth, Attorney for John Lyttle.....	82 50
1870.			
Jan.	19.	Roll of Company B, 25th West Virginia Militia.....	533 83
"	24.	To George W. Carpenter, Attorney for John Hanna, on Captain Ramsey's Roll.....	54 00
Feb.	10.	To Stuart L. Queen.....	18 00
"	17.	To Administrator of John C. Finster, deceased, for subsisting State Troops.....	49 50
May	23.	To J. P. R. B. Smith, for keeping horse for use of the 106th Regiment Militia.....	18 72
"	23.	To Capehart, Smith & Co., for subsisting 106th Regiment Militia.....	221 49
July	25.	To Hedgeman Slack, Attorney for J. C. Morris for organizing State Troops.....	50 00
Aug.	4.	To J. R. McCutchen, Attorney, for services in Captain Ramsey's Company.....	73 66
		Total.....$	2,127 29

Claims Audited and Appropriated for in 1870.

1870.			
Feb.	28.	To Alpheus McCoy, for services in Capt. Rollyson's Company .....$	82 13
Mar.	1.	To T. M. Harris, for services in organizing and recruiting State Troops.....	1,093 00
"	2.	To John M. Phelps, expenses incurred in recruiting.	225 00
"	2.	To John M. Phelps, as Attorney for Wendell Yoakam, for beef furnished recruits.....	294 00
"	5.	To James M. Ewing, Jr., for services as Clerk of Board of Claims	250 00
"	5.	To James E. Hanes, for services as Clerk of Board of Claims in 1868.....	250 00
"	14.	To Dixon R. King, for subsisting Recruits....	480 00
"	19.	To Morgan A. Darnall, for services as Captain of a Company of State Troops.....	513 30
"	19.	To Morgan A. Darnall, as Att'y for David Morgan	574 20
"	19.	same " A. Willson.....	414 96
Apr.	11.	To Lieutenant C. Flesher.....	26 64
May	2.	To T. M. Harris, Attorney for James H. Harris and others.....	190 20
"	2.	To T. M. Harris, Attorney for Timothy Tharp, for subsistence.....	180 00
"	2.	To Joseph Cheuvront, for subsistence.....	92 00
Aug.	9.	To Ernest Muntzing, Attorney for A. L. Kepling and others, (see supplemental roll of Captain Shell's H. G)..	1,598 45

Aug. 9.	To Ernest Muntzing, Attorney for J. C. Harrison, for subsistence	20 00
" 9.	To T. M. Harris, Attorney for Moses Blackburn, Roll, Field and Staff, 170th Regiment	46 32
	Total	$6,430 20

Expenses of Office in Excess of Appropriations.

1869.		
Dec. 3.	To James M. Ewing, Jr., on salary	$ 111 03
" 11.	same "	27 30
" 20.	same "	27 30
" 20.	To Harnden's Express Company, charges on box of arms received from Sheriff of Marion county, under Joint Resolution No. 22, December 21st, 1868	5 25
1870.		
Jan. 31.	To James M. Ewing, Jr., on salary	85 54
July 18.	To expenses of two trips to Washington to arrange for completion of Soldiers' Records	90 00
Aug. 10 to Dec. 31.	To contingent expenses of office and trip to Wheeling to superintend the printing of Report	25 00
Oct. 3.	To James M. Ewing, Jr, on salary	59 30
Nov. 26.	To James M. Ewing, Jr., on salary for December, and expenses traveling to and from Washington, Stationery, express charges on Books of Record, &c., &c., as per vouchers filed	272 00
	Total	$702 72

Subjoined is a list of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores received, issued and remaining on hand during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1870.

For their safe and proper keeping these were deposited at the time of removing the capital to Charleston, in the care of Colonel Curtis, Superintendent of the Penitentiary, at Moundsville.

As Quartermaster General, I have the honor to subjoin the following Report:

TABLE OF ORDNANCE AND ORDNANCE STORES

Received, issued, and remaining on hand during the fiscal year, ending September 30th, 1870.

	On hand as per last Report.	Received from H. M. Ice, Sheriff of Marion County, under Joint Resolution of the Legislature, adopted Dec 24, 1868	Issued to the Penitentiary.	Issued to the Vosburg Zouaves, at Martinsburg, W. Va.	Remaining on hand Sept. 30, 1870.
Muskets	900	22	.....	80	820
Cap pouches	900	.....	.....	80	820
Cartridge boxes	900	.....	.....	80	820
Cartridge box plates	900	.....	.....	.....	900
Cartridge box belts	900	.....	.....	80	820
Cartridge box belt plates	895	.....	.....	80	814
Gun slings	900	.....	.....	80	820
Waist belts	900	.....	.....	80	820
Waist belt plates	900	.....	.....	80	820
Screw drivers	101	.....	.....	.....	101
Spring vices	41	.....	.....	.....	41
Ball screws	100	.....	.....	.....	100
Ball pouches	7	.....	.....	.....	7
Cones	1,357	.....	.....	.....	1,357
Wipers	40	.....	.....	.....	40
Revolvers	5	.....	.....	.....	5
Carbine cartridge boxes	43	.....	.....	.....	43
Sword bayonets	38	.....	.....	.....	38
Elongated bullet cartridges, cal. 69	110,158	.....	.....	.....	110,158
" " " " 58	83,322	.....	1000	.....	82,322
Buck and ball cartridges, cal. 69	44,330	.....	.....	.....	44,330
Smith's carbine cartridges	65	.....	.....	.....	65
Austrian rifle cartridges	2,000	.....	.....	.....	2,000
Sharpe's rifle cartridges	300	.....	.....	.....	300
Harper's Ferry rifle cartridges	700	.....	.....	.....	700
Colt's holster pistol cartridges	8,920	.....	.....	.....	8,920
Shot guns	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Musket caps	38,850	5,000	.....	.....	43,850
Lead, lbs	30	.....	.....	.....	30
Rifle powder, lbs	17	.....	.....	.....	17
Rifle powder, kegs	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Gun flints	205	.....	.....	.....	205
Powder canteens	5	.....	.....	.....	5
Packing boxes	108	.....	.....	.....	108

I have the honor to be, Very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. M. HARRIS,

Adjt Gen'l, and Ex-Officio Q. M. Gen'l.